

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A direct gas burner type furnace for directly heating articles continuously fed into the furnace by combustion gas which gas is then exhausted outside the furnace thereafter, comprising
  - 5 combustion means opening to the interior of the furnace,
  - a temperature sensor for detecting the furnace temperature,
  - 10 exhaust fans for discharging the combustion gas from the interior of the furnace to outside the furnace,
  - combustion rate control means for controlling a combustion rate of the combustion means based on the furnace temperature detected by the
  - 15 temperature sensor, and
  - exhaust rate control means for controlling an exhaust rate of the combustion gas in the furnace by controlling the exhaust fans based on the combustion
  - 20 rate.
2. A direct gas burner type furnace as defined by claim 1, wherein a circulation fan is provided in the furnace for circulating the combustion gas in the furnace.
- 25 3. A direct gas burner type furnace as defined by claim 1, wherein a plurality of said combustion means are provided.
4. A direct gas burner type furnace as defined by claim 2, wherein a plurality of said combustion means are
- 30 provided.